Rail and road linkage projects to minor ports in Gujarat

1891. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of rail-road linkage projects pertaining to the minor ports of Gujarat received from the concerned Government are pending and require preparation and execution of an urgent and early implementation plan by the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details of such projects;

(c) the progress made in respect of these projects during the last three years, year-wise and project-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken during the current year, alongwith the project-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Union Government is responsible for development and maintenance of only National Highways (NH) and providing NH connectivity to the Major Ports of the country. At present, there is only one Major Port in Gujarat, *i.e.*, Kandla Port which is well connected through National Highway NH-8A. However, some of the projects for augmentation of National Highways in Gujarat, that have been included in the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) Phase-III, would also facilitate improved road linkage to some non-Major Ports of Gujarat. These projects are indicated below:

Project	Status
Kandla-Mundra Port Section of NH-8A	Bids are under evaluation for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the project for four laning of 73 kms stretch of NH-8A.
Surat-Hazira Port Section of NH-6	DPR is in inception stage for the project of four laning of 29 kms stretch of NH-6.

For the connectivity of Broad Gauge Rail Linkages to important non-Major Ports in Gujarat, the Gujarat Maritime Board had initiated and completed Techno-Feasibility Studies through M/s. Rail India Technical and Economic Services (RITES) Limited. Discussions were held between senior officers of Government of Gujarat and Railway Board on 20th July,

2006. Meanwhile, Railways are executing following projects for providing linkage to non-Major Ports in Gujarat:

Name of the Port	Status
Dahej Port (Bharuch-Samni-Dahej-Gauge Conversion)	The project has been sactioned for execution by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) *viz.* Bharuch-Dahej Railway Company Limited which will implement the project. The shareholder's agreement has been signed on 12.1.2007. The anticipated cost of the project is Rs. 165.77 crores.
Hazira Port (Surat-Hazira-New Line)	An SPV for implementation of this project is to be created upon finalization of principles for revenue allocation and Concession Agreement for this project.
Dholera Port	Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is undertaking the Preliminary Engineering-cum-Traffic Survey (PETS) for rail connectivity to this Port.
Bedi and New Bedi Port Connectivity	Railway Board is appraising the Study Report prepared by RITES for this project.

Rail crossings in Gujarat

1892. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that three rail crossings in Gujarat on NH-6, Surat-Dhulia are bottlenecks for smooth traffic; and

(b) if so, the details of planning of construction of Rail Over Bridges (ROBs) on these three rail crossings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are three rail crossings on Surat-Gujarat/Maharashtra border section of NH-6 in Gujarat. This section of NH-6 is presently included in National Highway Development Project (NHDP), Phase-IIIB only for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) by NHAI. Consultancy work